

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SOCI, HU

SUBJ: INFORMATION ON EAST EUROPEAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCEEDINGS

REF: STOCKHOLM 4947

1. CURRENT HUNGARIAN CRIMINAL CODE STIPULATES PUNISHMENTS OF 1-5 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR "ECONOMIC CRIMES"; UP TO 8 YEARS IF THE "PEOPLE'S ECONOMY HAS BEEN GRAVELY PRE-JUDICED." CERTAIN COUNTERFEITING OFFENSES ARE PUNISHABLE WITH UP TO 12 YEARS.

2. SABOTAGE IS PUNISHABLE NORMALLY WITH 5-12 YEARS; MAY BE PUNISHED WITH LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR DEATH IF THE SABOTAGE HAS CAUSED "PARTICULARLY GRAVE PREJUDICE" OR IS COMMITTED IN TIME OF WAR.

3. STAFF MEMBERS RECALL NO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SENTENCES FOR ECONOMIC CRIMES FOR MANY YEARS, AS FAR BACK AS THE 1950'S. OF COURSE, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME CASES

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WHICH HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THEN BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS

WERE NEVER PUBLICIZED. WITH IMPROVEMENT IN HUNGARY'S
ECONOMIC LOT GOH NO LONGER FEELS NEED, AS IT DID IN PAST,
TO CHARGE INDIVIDUALS WITH "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE" IN ORDER
TO EXPLAIN ITS MASSIVE ECONOMIC FAILURES. WE SHOULD ADD,
HOWEVER, THAT AS FAR AS SUCH ACTIVITIES AS
SABOTAGE, TERRORISM, AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY
ARE CONCERNED THERE IS NOTHING IN THE PSYCHOLOGY OF
HUNGARIANS, THE PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS, OR PAST
PERFORMANCE BY OTHER HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENTS THAT WOULD LEAD
US TO BELIEVE THAT, IF GOH FELT ITSELF SERIOUSLY THREATENED
INTERNALLY, ITS REACTIONS WOULD BE ANY LESS DRASTIC THAN
THOSE OF THE SPANISH.
MCAULIFFE

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